

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 9-11 and 13-25 are pending in this application with claims 9 and 18 being the only independent claims. Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite additional claim features in the previously presented claims 11 and 12. Claims 10 and 13-14 have been amended in view of the amendments to independent claim 9. New claims 18-25 have been added reciting a sliding door. Support for the new claims can be found in previously presented claims 9-17 and paragraph [0014] of the specification and Fig. 2 as filed. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 9-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite.

Claims 9-13, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Boaz (US 6,136,427).

Claims 14, 15 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boaz in view of Geze (DE 197 33 381).

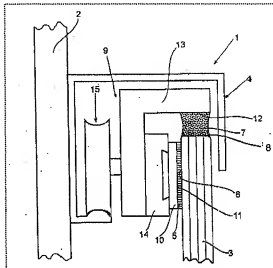
Amendments Addressing Informalities

Claim 9 has been amended to remove the language that is deemed to be indefinite. The 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections of claim 9-17 are thus believed to have been overcome.

Summary of the Subject Matter Disclosed in the Specification

The following descriptive details are based on the specification. They are provided only for the convenience of the Examiner as part of the discussion presented herein, and are not intended to argue limitations which are unclaimed.

The specification discloses an adhesive system 1 (see Fig. 2 reproduced below for the Examiner's reference) having a structural component 3 (e.g., a glass panel) to be mounted on a base structure 2 (e.g., a wall). A primary bonding 5 has an adhesive with a high elastic modulus and great strength and is applied to a first bonding location 6 onto the structural component 3 to be mounted. A secondary bonding 7 is applicable to a second bonding location 8 onto the structural component 3 and has an elastically stretchable adhesive (e.g., silicone).



The adhesive system 1 has a mounting profile 4, which can be fixed at the base structure 2 and fastened at the structural component 3. A carriage 9 can be placed between the mounting profile 4 and the structural component 3 or between the carriage 9 and the structural component 3. The adapter 10 has a first mating surface 11 for the primary bonding 5 such that it can be bonded, e.g., to the structural component 3, while considering bonding requirements.

See, paragraphs [0011] and [0012] of the specification as filed.

Patentability of the Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 9

Independent claim 9 recites an adhesive system comprising “an application adapter supporting the structural component on the carriage.” The above claim features are not taught by the cited art because Boaz’s spacers 26 (interpreted by the Office Action as the claimed application adapter) do not support the glass panel 12 on the forming member 40 (interpreted by the Office Action as the claimed carriage) as elaborated below.

When rejecting claim 12, the Office Action interprets the spacers 26 in Boaz as the application adapter recited in independent claim 9 (see, page 4 of the Office Action). Without admitting or disputing such interpretation made in the Office Action, applicants submit that the spacers 26 in Boaz are not positioned to support the glass panel 16 on the forming member 40 (interpreted by the Office Action as the claimed carriage, see, page 3 of Office Action). In the various drawing figures of Boaz, the spacers 26 are spaced from the forming member 40. Therefore, Boaz's spacers 26 do not meet the application adapter recited in independent claim 9.

Furthermore, neither forming member 40 nor any other element disclosed by Boaz can be considered to be a carriage of a sliding door. Therefore, Boaz does not teach an adhesive system comprising "an application adapter supporting the structural component on the carriage," as recited in the amended independent claim 9.

In view of the above, independent claim 9 patentably distinguishes over Boaz. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 18

Similar to independent claim 9, independent claim 18 recites a sliding door comprising "an application adapter supporting the structural component on the carriage." Therefore, independent claim 18 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 9 is allowable.

Dependent Claims 10-11, 13-17, and 19-25

Claims 10-11, 13-17, and 19-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1. Geze is cited in the Office Action against the additional features in claims 14-16 but do not remedy the deficiencies of Boaz. Therefore, claims 10-11, 13-17, and 19-25 are each allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 9 or 18 is allowable.

In addition, dependent claims 10-11, 13-17, and 19-25 each include features which serve to even more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the applied prior art.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

No fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our PTO Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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